



P/334-197

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Dimitri Wasil Kemper

Date: September 1, 2006

Serial No.: 10/806,756

Group Art Unit: 3753

Filed: March 22, 2004

Examiner: Craig M. Schneider

For: EXPANSION TANK WITH VALVE

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Sir:

This is in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed July 24, 2006.

Applicant elects species b, Figures 4a-4c. Applicant notes that claim 1 is generic and believes that claim 5 reads on the elected species. In accordance with the usual species restriction practice, if a generic claim is found allowable, it is requested that claims to all the species be examined.

The Examiner's request for a copy of the Swiss reference noted in the Information Disclosure Statement is complied with by sending another copy.

Applicant has made a review of the two references cited in the International Search Report and has the following comments:

FR-1390095A discloses an expansion tank, which is used in water installations, heaters and installations for chemical industries. Translation of the fourth paragraph:

According to the present invention the cushion of air is replaced in a closed expansion tank of the classic type by a liquid, which boils or condenses according to the pressure and the temperature in the interior of the expansion tank, thereby allowing to use the whole volume of said tank, when the volume of the fluid in the installation increases.

The description of Fig. 1:

In figure 1 the expansion tank 1 is connected to an installation by the conduit 2, through which the liquid rises or descents according to the variations of the volume in the interior of the installation.

Under the level of liquid 4, a liquid 5 is introduced by the air valve 7, which either by boiling, or by condensation follows the conditions of the pressure and temperature in the tank, keeping the space 6 on a pressure noticeably constant.

Figures 1-4 show, the entrance (2) of the expansion tank does not have a valve.

Compared with the invention described in the present application, FR 095 does not disclose an expansion tank comprising a closed tank with at least one connection opening for a liquid pipe, which can be closed by a main valve inside the tank according to claim 1 of this U.S. application.

CH-397190 is mentioned in the present application. It describes an expansion tank. Page 1, line 40-53 describes:

the present invention provides an expansion tank for a central heating device, having a closed expansion system, but differing from known devices of this kind, in that a valve controlled by a float is mounted at the lowest place of the expansion tank, which controls the mouth of the expansion conduit, in such a way that the valve is closed, as soon as the water plane on the float lowers, this allowing the float to fall down.

The mounting of this valve prevents a loss of pressure of the air cushion when the expansion conduit is emptied or filled.

Figure 3 shows the valve controlled by a float at the mouth of the expansion conduit (4) comprising a float ball (21), a valve seat (12) and a ball shaped elastic sealing body (19). A strainer basket (15) out of nickel is covering the mouth of the expansion conduit (4), which is mounted in the hollow space of the reducing piece (13).

A drawback of this known expansion tank is mentioned in the present application at page 1 in the third paragraph. CH 190 does not disclose an additional valve, which is for example shown in figure 3A of the application.

It is requested these two reference in the International Search Report be of record herein

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 1, 2006:

Robert C. Faber

Name of applicant, assignee or
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Signature

September 1, 2006

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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